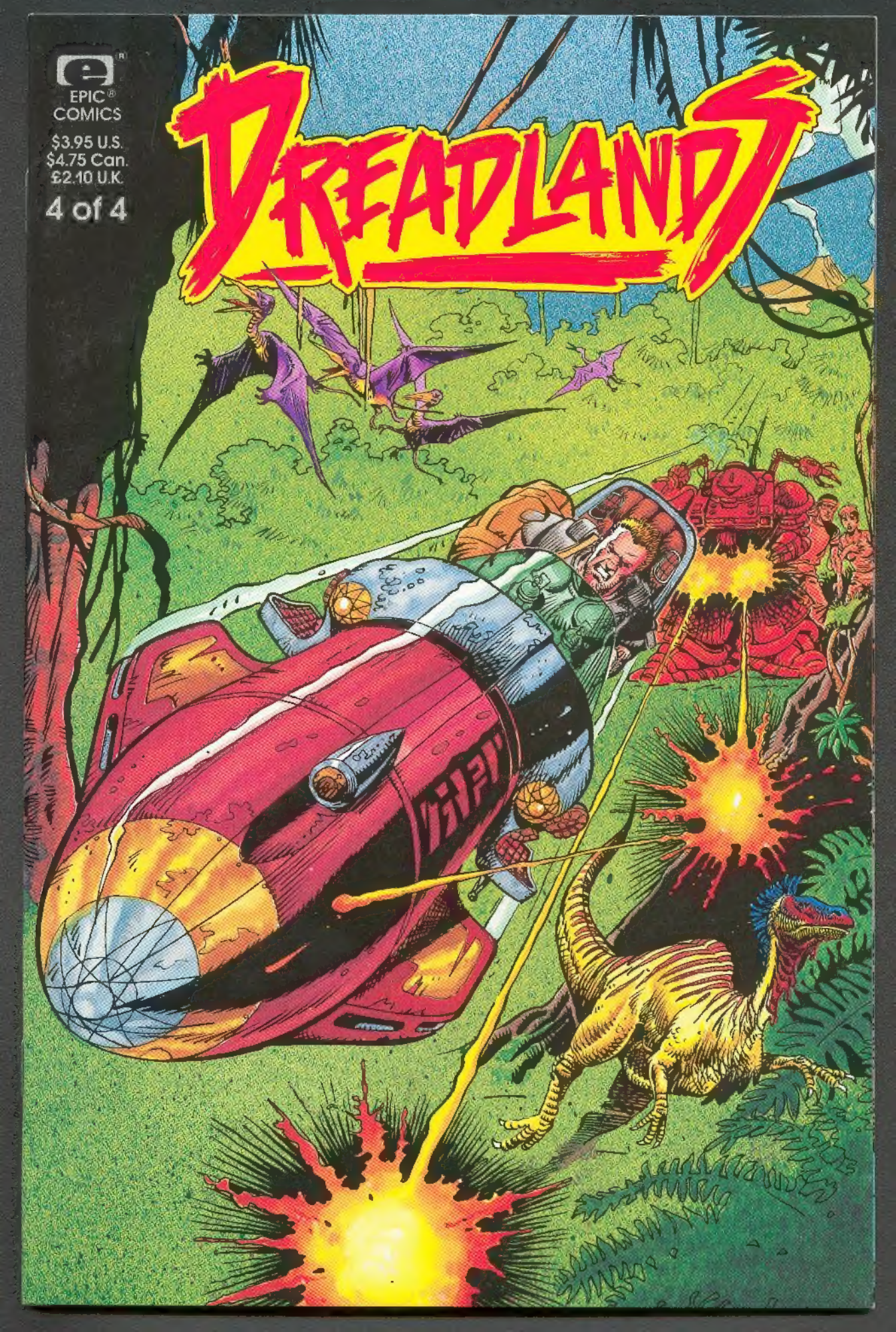
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4 of 4
DREADLANDS

NORTH AMERICA, LATE JURASSIC, 150 MILLION YEARS AGO...
It seemed like that night would never end. Everything we worked so hard to build lay in ruins. Haven was gone.
My memory is blurred, the events a haze of stampeding dinosaurs, the raging storm, a forest fire and the malevolent figures of the aliens emerging from the smoke.

Images that swam before me and threatened to overwhelm me as I learned Jeff was KILLED...
...killed by one of the aliens who sat passive, watching me with melancoly eyes.
There were only nine of us left, each making survival paramount.
I slept fitfully, oblivious to Trask's plans to turn our survival into his revenge.
HOW'S SHE DOING, MARY?
SLEEPING. ALL CRIED OUT, I GUESS.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
IT SOUNDS LIKE TRASK IS BANGING THE WAR DRUM. WHAT WORRIES ME IS THAT THE OTHERS ARE HYPED-UP ENOUGH TO LISTEN...
I'LL SIT WITH ELLEN. YOU GO STRAIGHTEN THEM OUT.

SORRY, GUNNEY. I AGREE WITH TRASK. WE'VE GOTTA HIT BACK.
DAMN STRAIGHT! WE GOTTA TAKE THE FIGHT TO THEM! STRIKE HARD BEFORE THEY COME BACK AND PICK US OFF!
BUT THERE'S ONLY A HANDFUL OF US. WE BARELY GOT ANY AMMO. GOD ONLY KNOWS WHAT THESE THINGS ARE AND WHAT THEY CAN DO.
WE WERE LUCKY THIS TIME.
KLIK!
YOU CALL THIS LUCKY? THEY'VE ATTACKED US, WIPED OUT YOUR BASE, AND KILLED McCLURE!
YOU OWE IT TO HIM TO GET EVEN!
GET OURSELVES KILLED, MORE LIKE.
AND FOR WHAT? REVENGE? JEFF WAS MY FRIEND, BUT HE'D WANT US TO THINK ABOUT THIS, NOT GO OFF HALF-COCKED.
WE DON'T REALLY KNOW WHY THEY ATTACKED US--ONLY WHAT YOU TOLD US, TRASK!

BUTTON YOUR INSUBORDINATE MOUTH! THIS IS A MILITARY SITUATION, AND I'M TAKING COMMAND!
WE'VE GOT TO SEIZE THE INITIATIVE!
THESE CREATURES HAVE SHOWN THEIR INTENTIONS TO BE HOSTILE!
HE'S RIGHT. WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING.
WHAT EXACTLY HAVE YOU GOT IN MIND?
WE USE THE BIG GEEK AS A SHIELD TO GET INTO THE SHIP, GRAB WHATEVER WE NEED TO DEFEND OURSELVES AND DIG IN SOMEWHERE.
WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS ALIENS..?
IF THEY TRY TO STOP US, WE KILL THEM.
GREAT PLAN!
IT'S NOT OPEN TO NEGOTIATION.
WE LEAVE AT FIRST LIGHT. YOU'VE GOT A COUPLE OF HOURS TO GET PREPPED, THEN, IF YOU'RE COMING, FINE. IF NOT -- ROT IN HELL.

TRASK'S REALLY GONE OFF THE DEEP END. WHO THE HELL DOES HE THINK HE IS IF HE RECKONS HE CAN TAKE ON THESE ALIENS? FLASH GORDON?
HE'S GOT A POINT, THOUGH. WE'RE SITTING DUCKS HERE!

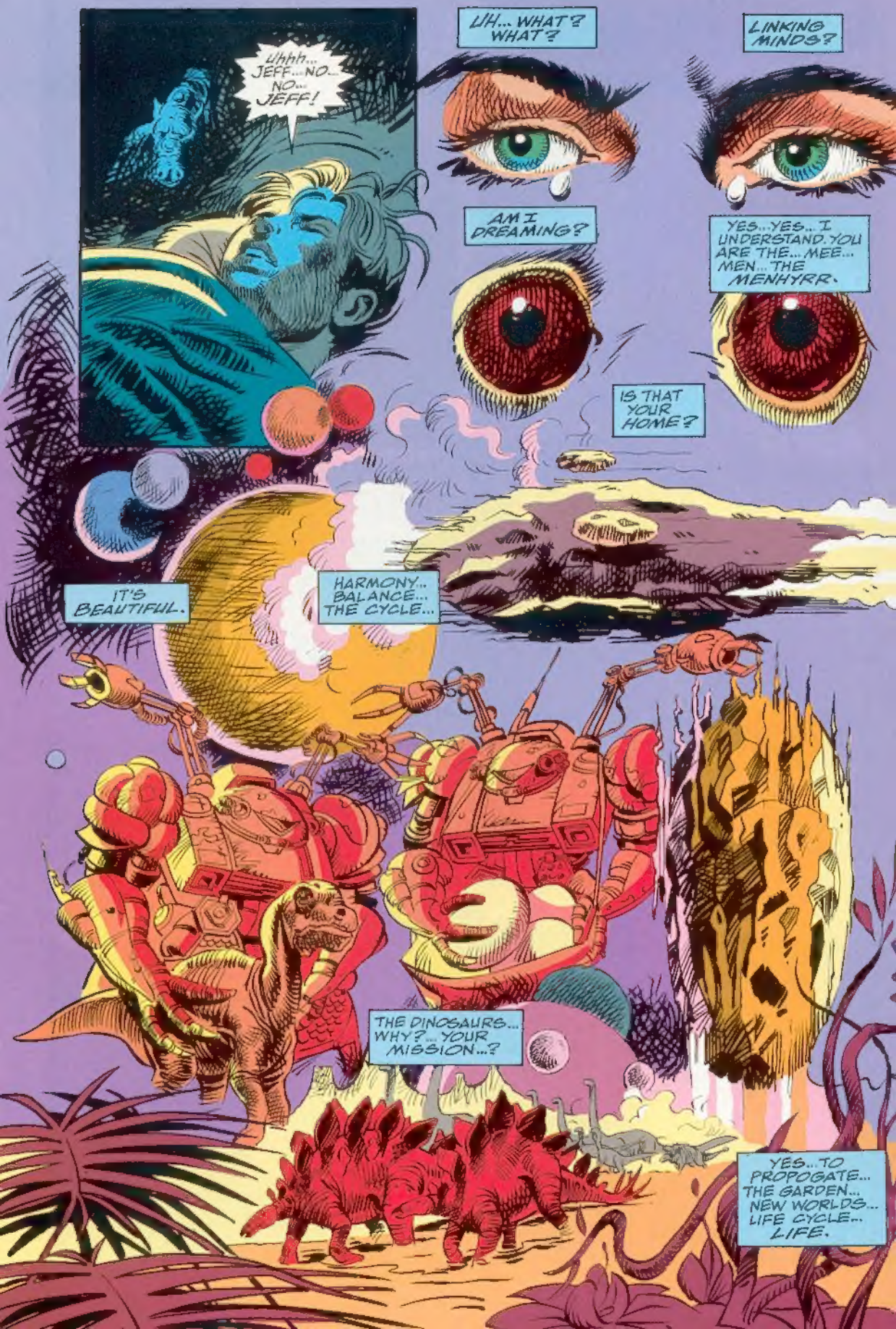
YOU'RE NOT THINKING OF GOING ALONG WITH HIM, ARE YOU?! HE'S CRAZY!
SOMEONE'S GOT TO BE THERE TO MAKE SURE THINGS DON'T GET OUT OF HAND.
PYKE'S ALL FIRED UP CUZ THEY KILLED HIS DINOS, McDONALD'S SPINELESS, AND SCHNEIDER'LL DO WHATEVER TRASK SAYS...

SO I'VE HEARD. TAKE CARE, MAN.
PYKE'S DEFINITELY GOING. HE WOULDN'T LISTEN TO ME.

OKAY, LYNDON, I WANT YOU TO STAY HERE AND WATCH OVER THESE LADIES.
WAIT A SECOND--I'M GOING WITH YOU!

SOMEONE'S GOT TO WATCH YOUR ASS! THAT'S FINAL!

MARY, HOW'S ELLEN HOLDING UP?
WE'D BETTER GRAB WHAT SLEEP WE CAN--WE'RE GONNA NEED IT TOMORROW.
SHE'S SLEEPING LIKE A BABE.


Uhhh... JEFF...NO... NO... JEFF!
UH... WHAT? WHAT?
LINKING MINDS?
AM I DREAMING?
YES...YES... I UNDERSTAND. YOU ARE THE... MEE... MEN... THE MENHYRR.
IS THAT YOUR HOME?
IT'S BEAUTIFUL.
HARMONY... BALANCE... THE CYCLE...
THE DINOSAURS... WHY?... YOUR MISSION...?
YES...TO PROPOGATE... THE GARDEN... NEW WORLDS... LIFE CYCLE... LIFE.

Uh... WHAT? CONFUSED... I DON'T UN--
LOST... ANGRY... VIOLENT... HU... HU... MANS... SENSELESS...
TRASK... NO... NO!
JEFF-- OH, YOU BASTARD! IT WAS YOU, TRASK! YOU!
VERMIN... CONTROL...
"HANG IN THERE, BIG GUY... MINDLESS ANIMAL..."
"YOU MUST THINK WE'RE VERMIN... RATS... ALIEN FILTH... MURDERING SCUM..."
OH, GOD... IT WAS TRASK TRASK TRASK... TRASK... JEFF...
JEFF... OH, NO... MY BABY... MY SON...

OKAY TROOPS-- SHAKE A LEG! WE'RE HAULING OUT IN FIFTEEN MINUTES!

GLAD YOU'VE SEEN SENSE, GUNNEY.
YEAH.
GRAB ONE OF PYKE'S CAMPTOSAURS FOR YOU AND THE LADY. WE'RE TRAVELING LIGHT FOR SPEED, SO MINIMUM KIT.

I'LL CHECK ON ELLEN. GOT ANY SUGAR?
UNTIE OUR TRAVELING COMPANION, SCHNEIDER, YOU KEEP AN EYE ON HIM. IF HE SO MUCH AS BLINKS, SIEVE HIM.

IT'S GONE! MACDONALD, YOU WERE THE LAST ON WATCH-- WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU DOING?!
I WAS TIRED... IT WAS HOT... BESIDES-- YOU TIED IT UP!

ELLEN...? HAS ANYONE SEEN ELLEN? SHE'S GONE!

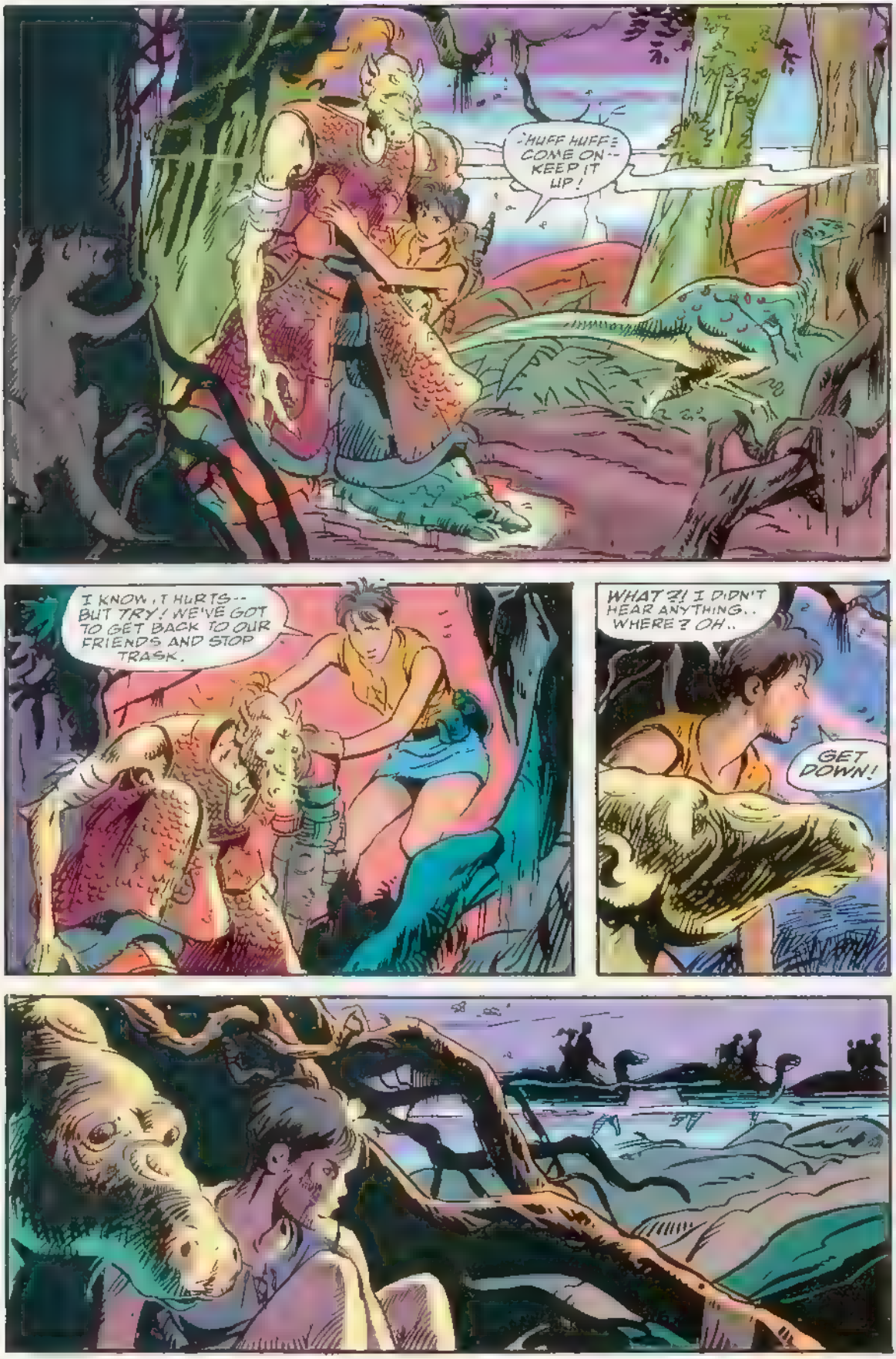
THE ROPE WAS CUT!
PARKER--THAT BITCH! KEEP THIS CLASSIFIED!

THE ALIEN MUST'VE TAKEN HER! WE'D BETTER MOVE QUICK IF WE'RE GOING TO BEAT HIM TO THE SHIP.
DO YOU HONESTLY BELIEVE IT TOOK HER?
WHAT'S THE ALTERNATIVE? THAT THEY'RE OUT FOR A STROLL?

YOU'D BETTER WATCH YOUR BACK, GUNNEY.
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE GOING TO STAY..?
YEP. MARY AND I WILL SEARCH THE SURROUNDING AREA. WE'LL BE OKAY.

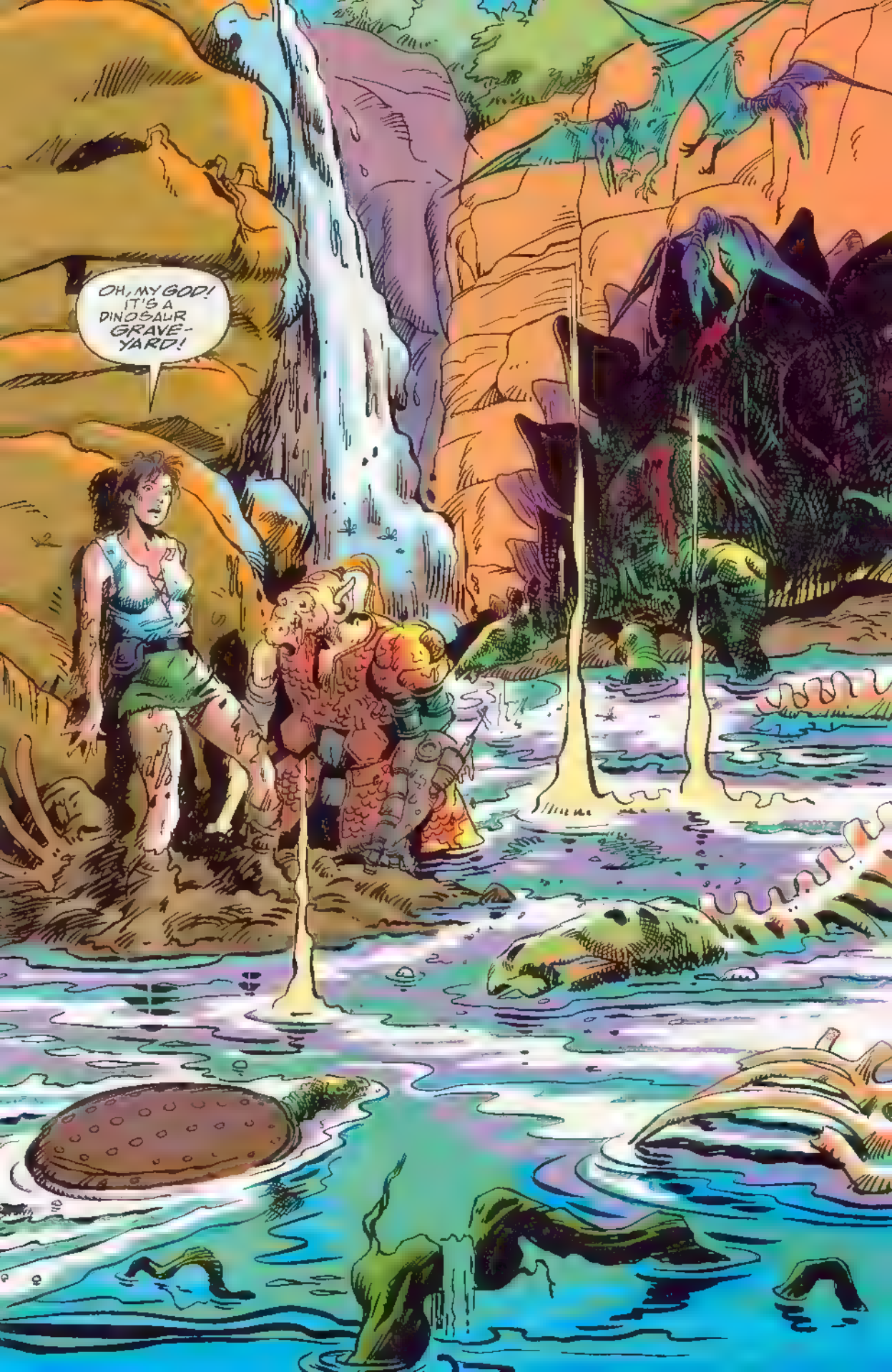
MOVE IT OUT!!

ELLEN, WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU?


-HUFF HUFF- COME ON-- KEEP IT UP!
I KNOW, IT HURTS-- BUT TRY! WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO OUR FRIENDS AND STOP TRASK.
WHAT?! I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING.. WHERE? OH..
GET DOWN!

SPLASH!
Huh. HOW FAR NOW...? OH. WHAT'S THAT IN HUMAN TERMS?
AW, NO-- IT'S MILES! WHAT? OKAY, WE'LL TAKE FIVE.
HOW'S THE SHOULDER? WE COULD CHANGE THE DRESS--
SLEESHH
--INGGSSS AHHHHH!!

WAAAAA...
AAOOOO...
SHHHHHH--
!!!KAPOW!
:GAK: :GAK: HUKK!
AAHHH!

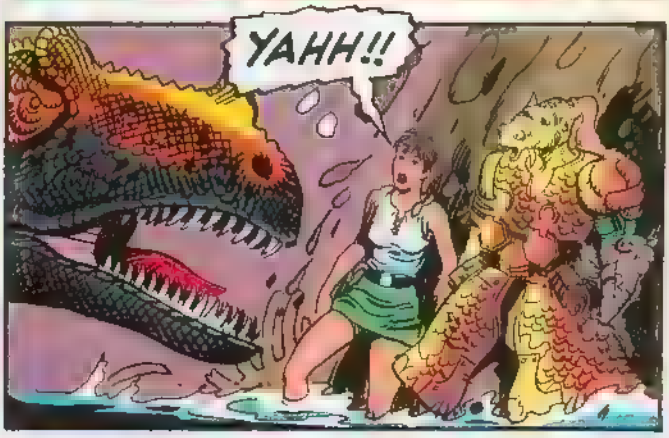

OH, MY GOD! IT'S A DINOSAUR GRAVE-YARD!

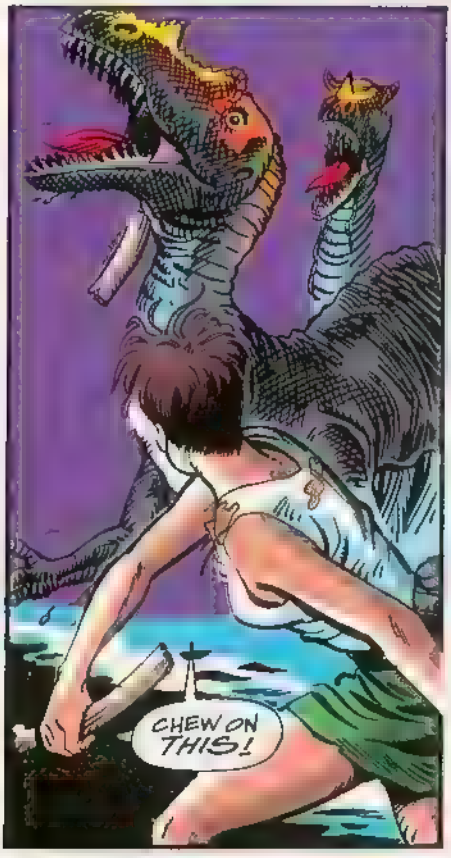
YOU OKAY. ? RIGHT..
RROOAAHH
WHAT??
POOR THING PROBABLY GOT HERE THE SAME WAY WE DID NO THERE ISN'T TIME OKAY, WE GOTTA GO.
THIS WAY...
SPLIK SPLIK SPLIK
WHASSAT?

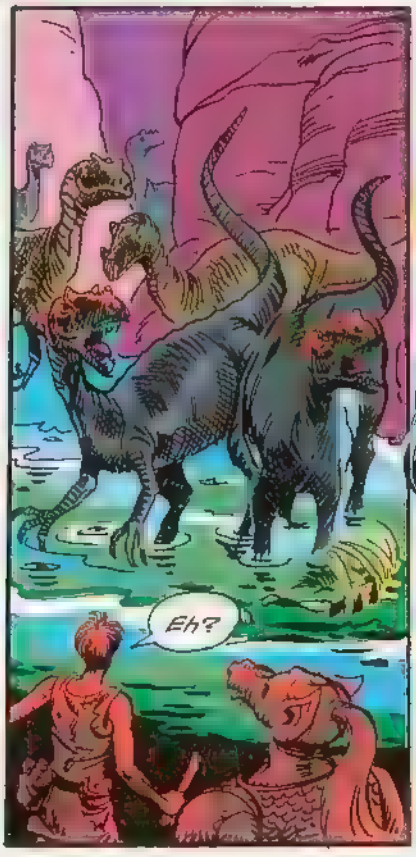
SPLIK
SPLIK
SPOK
SPLIK
SPLISH
SPLIK
SPLIK
OH, HELL!
MOVE IT! GO!

CAN'T GO THAT WAY! NOW WHAT??

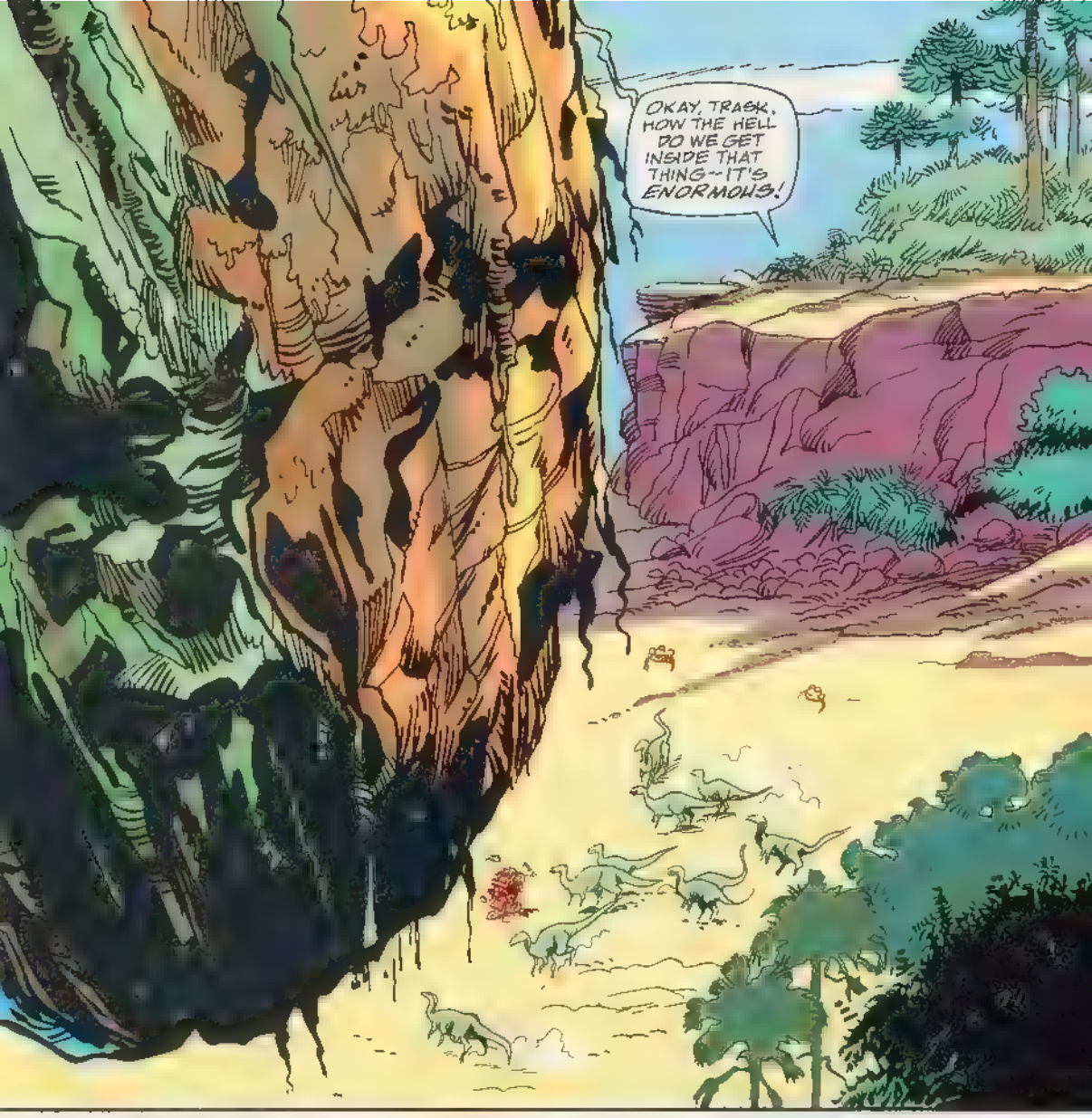
DAMN IT! TOO STEEP! IT WON'T HOLD YOU - WE CAN'T GET HIGH ENOUGH!


YAHH!!


CHEW ON THIS!


EH?

OH, SHIT.

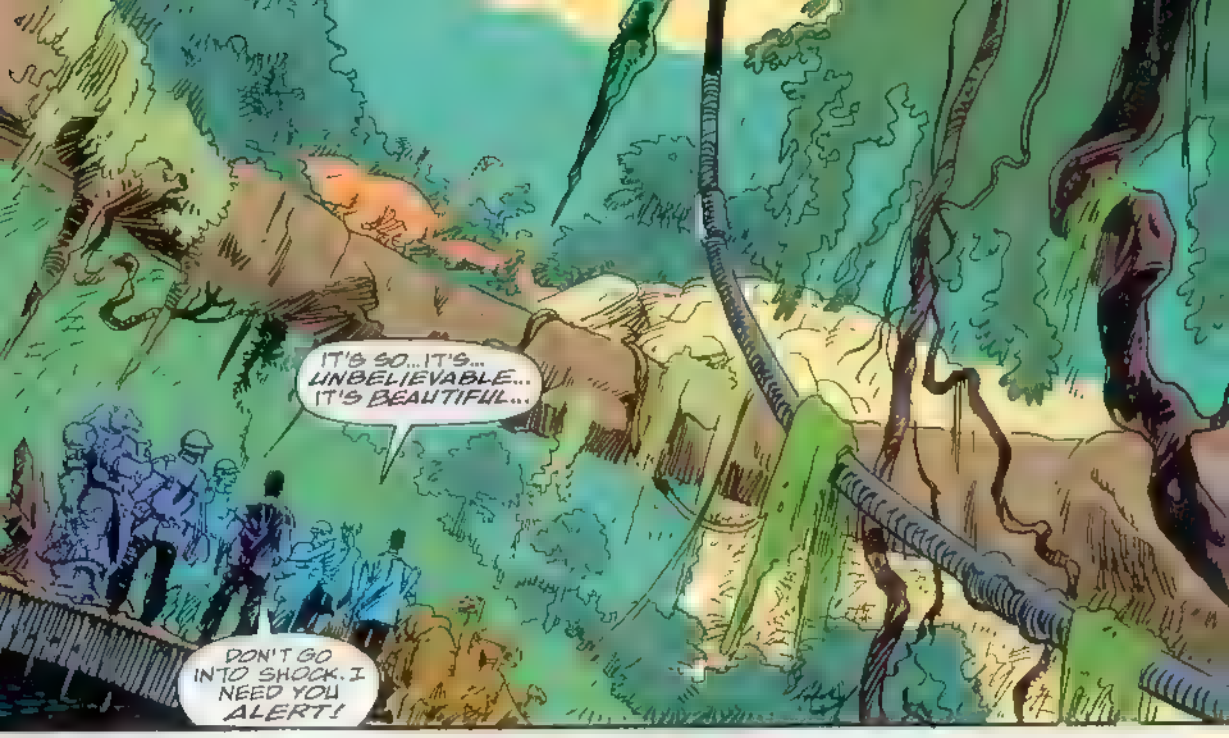

OKAY, TRASK, HOW THE HELL DO WE GET INSIDE THAT THING--IT'S ENORMOUS!

WE DID IT ONCE, CAN DO IT AGAIN.
THERE'S ONLY ONE GEEK ON THE GROUND. THE REST COULD BE INSIDE THE SHIP.

I KNOW HOW TO OPERATE THE LOADING DOCK. ALL WE GOTTA DO IS GET PAST HIM.
AND HOW WE GONNA DO THAT?

EASY AS SHOOTING DUCKS IN A BARREL
HEY!
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
WHATHEFU--
SKRAKK
THK!
THE BIG GEEK'S DOWN-- BUT THE DRONES HAVE ZEROED US!
REYNOLDS-- IT'S STILL ALIVE! WE GOTTA STOP IT BEFORE IT GETS TO THE PLATFORM!
SCHNEIDER! GET DOWN THERE AND STOP IT! WE'LL HOLD THE DRONES!
BRRA KA-RRAK-KA-THOOM

GODDAMMIT!
KA-CHOW
YAIIII!
NICE GOING, SERGEANT! NOW WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS SCUM ONCE AND FOR ALL!
NO!
SHUT IT, REYNOLDS. YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH DAM--
THINK, MAN! ALIVE, WE CAN USE HIM TO GET BACK INTO THE SHIP!
YOU'VE GOT YOUR INSURANCE BACK!
OKAY, REYNOLDS YOU'VE WON YOURSELF A REPRIEVE.


IT'S SO...IT'S... UNBELIEVABLE... IT'S BEAUTIFUL...
DON'T GO INTO SHOCK. I NEED YOU ALERT!

WHAT IS THIS- THE GODDAMN ARK?!
THEY'VE GOT A FULL-SIZED RAIN-FOREST IN HERE!

YOU SHOULD SEE THE PENTHOUSE SUITE!
GUNNEY, WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO?
TRASK, WHAT NOW?

NOW? NOW WE NUKE THESE MOTHERS BACK INTO DEEP SPACE!

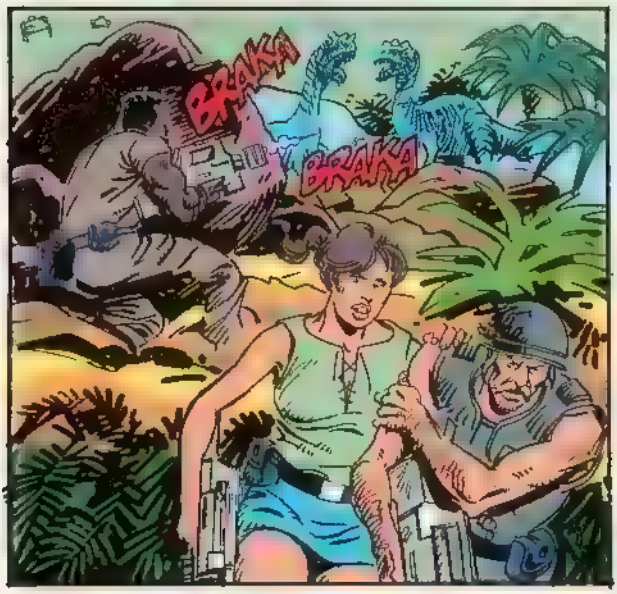
TRASK, YOU MAD BASTARD!

BACK OFF, GUNNEY!
SCHNEIDER, ARE YOU BLIND?! HE'S GONE MAD!
BACK OFF-- NOW!
HANDS OFF!
KA-CHIC
NOW--NOW THIS IS GETTING OUT OF HAND!
OH, SHUT UP McDONALD!
LOOKS LIKE WE GOT OURSELVES A MUTINY!
McCLURE'S NOT HERE TO BACK YOU UP NOW, REYNOLDS. WHATCHA GONNA DO Hmm?
PLEASE! WE'RE NOT ACHIEVING ANY-THING SQUABBLING LIKE THIS!
JEEZ, McDONALD-- THIS ISN'T A GODDAMN BOARD MEETING!
THIS HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH. WE'RE LEAVING, AND TAKING THE NUKE WITH US.

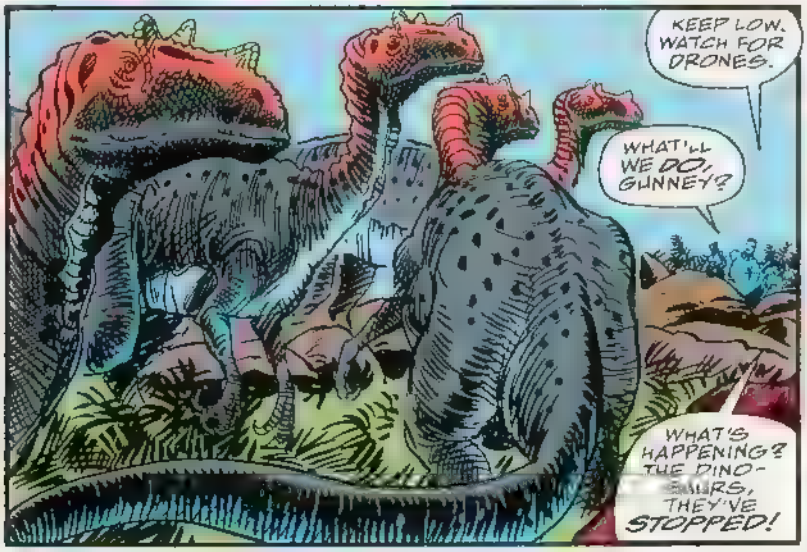
SKRAATZZ
SHIT! THE GEEK'S MAKING A BREAK FOR IT!
SKRAK
GET OFF THE PLATFORM! WE'RE SITTING DUCKS HERE!
CAN YOU MAKE IT INTO THE SHRUBS? WE CAN DIG IN THERE!
YEAH-- IT'S MY ARM AGAIN, DAMN IT!
REYNOLDS, YOU SON OF A--

I SEE YOU, REYNOLDS
KATHOOM!
KARRUUMPH
BRAKRAKK
SHIIIT!

SUDDEN BUDDA

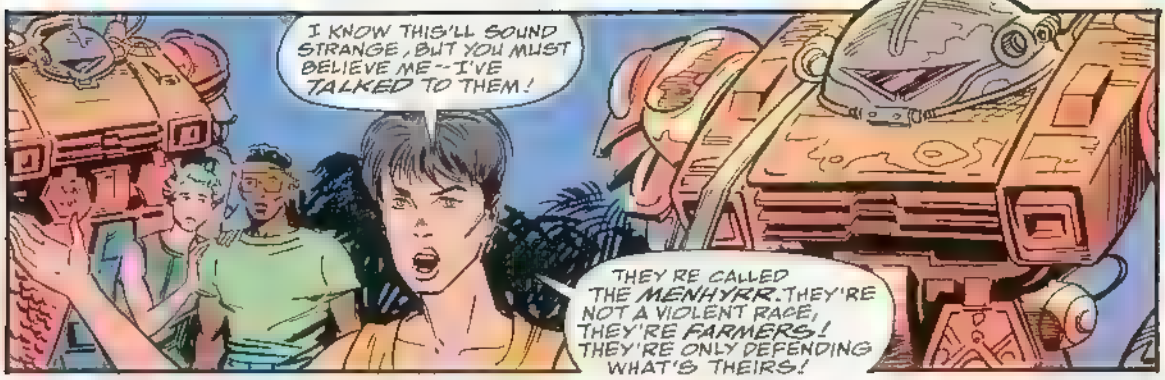

BRAAKA
BRAAKA

CHRIST, TRASK! WHAT A SHAMBLES WE'RE IN THE CRAPPER NOW!
FRUMPH
KA
THOOM

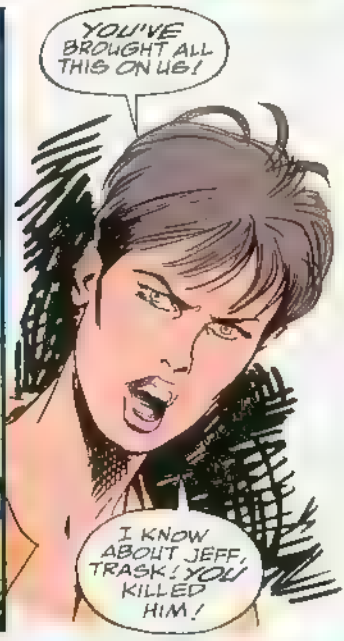

KEEP LOW. WATCH FOR DRONES.
WHAT'LL WE DO, GUNNEY?
WHAT'S HAPPENING? THE DINO-SAURS, THEY'VE STOPPED!

TRASK! REYNOLDS! HOLD YOUR FIRE! IT'S US!

PUT DOWN YOUR WEAPONS AND COME OUT! THIS HAS GONE TOO FAR!

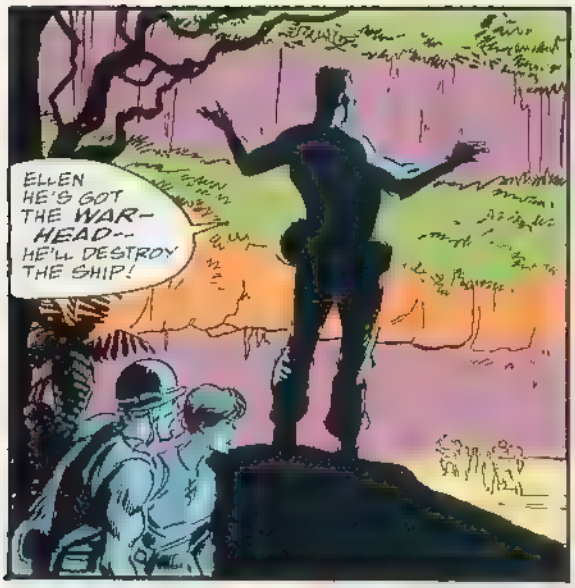

I KNOW THIS'LL SOUND STRANGE, BUT YOU MUST BELIEVE ME--I'VE TALKED TO THEM!
THEY'RE CALLED THE MENHYRR. THEY'RE NOT A VIOLENT RACE, THEY'RE FARMERS! THEY'RE ONLY DEFENDING WHAT'S THEIRS!

THEY DIDN'T START THIS--WE DID! YOU KNOW THAT, TRASK!
YOU ROBBED THEIR SHIP, THEN KILLED AN UNARMED ALIEN!
THEY DIDN'T ATTACK YOU--THEY WERE DEFENDING THEMSELVES!


YOU'VE BROUGHT ALL THIS ON US!
I KNOW ABOUT JEFF, TRASK! YOU KILLED HIM!

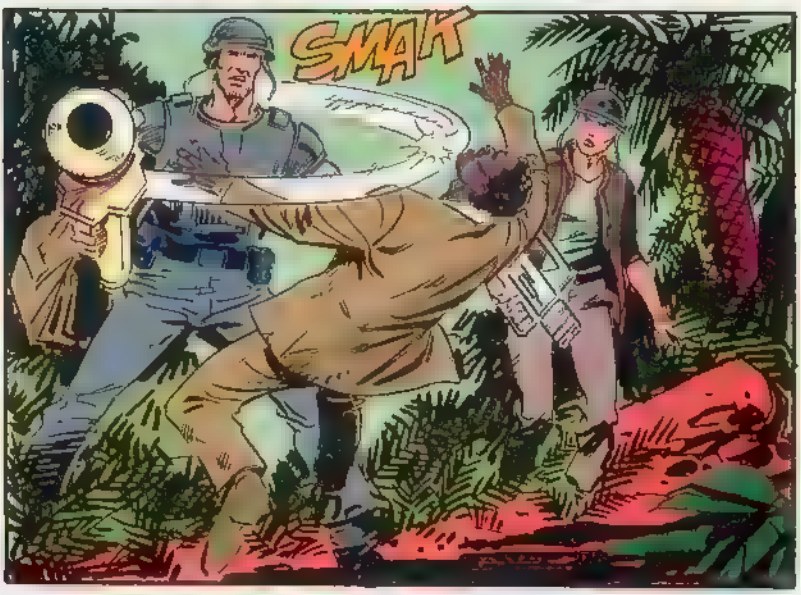
THE MENHYRR SHOWED ME, AND I BELIEVE THEM, YOU BASTARD!
WHAT'S SHE TALKING ABOUT?

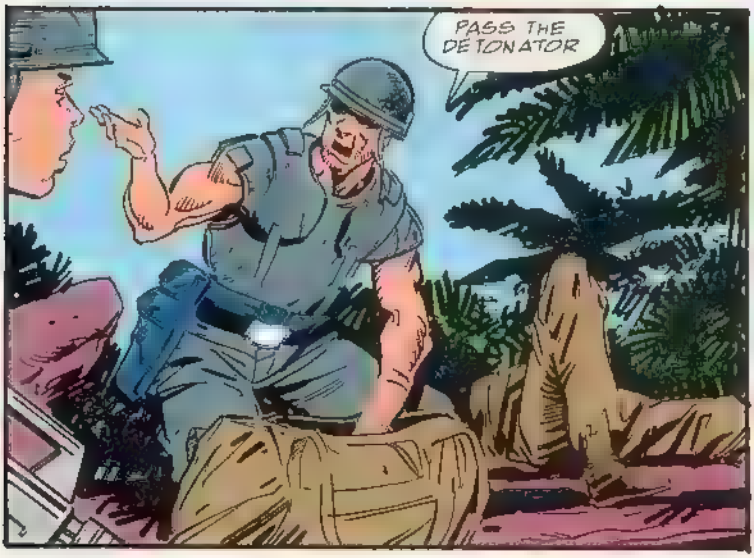
NOW GIVE IT UP. YOU CAN'T WIN AGAINST THEM. IT'S POINTLESS.
COME OUT. PLEASE.


ELLEN HE'S GOT THE WAR-HEAD-- HE'LL DESTROY THE SHIP!

THIS HAS GOT TO END NOW. CAN'T YOU SEE THERE'S NO OTHER WAY OUT? THESE PEOPLE ARE SERIOUS-- YOU KILLED McCLURE FOR CHRISSAKE!
THERE'LL BE NO SURRENDER!

YOU'LL GET US ALL KILLED!
WELL, NOT ME--I'M NOT PUTTING MY HEAD ON THE BLOCK FOR YOU AND YOUR MILITARY BULL-SHIT! I'M OUTTA HERE!

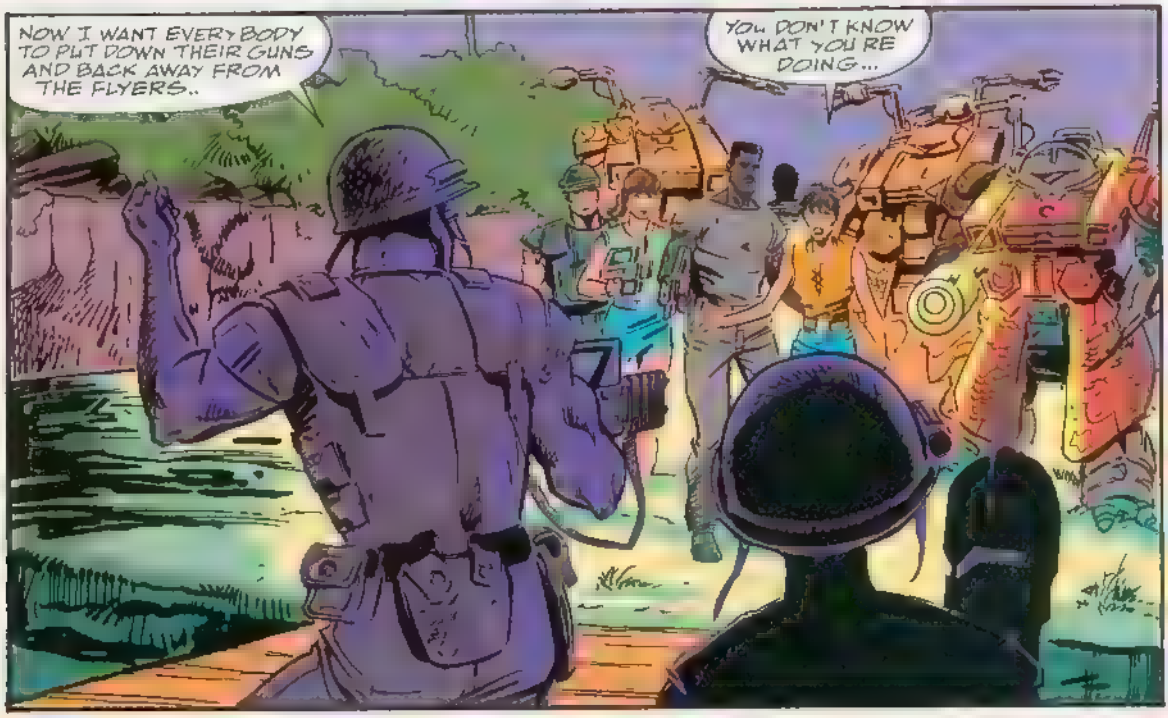

SMAK


PASS THE DETONATOR

TRASK, PLEASE-- THIS IS YOUR FINAL CHANCE. THEY'LL FIND YOU. IF YOU KEEP THIS UP YOU'LL NEVER GET OUT ALIVE!

IF I DON'T-- NOBODY DOES.

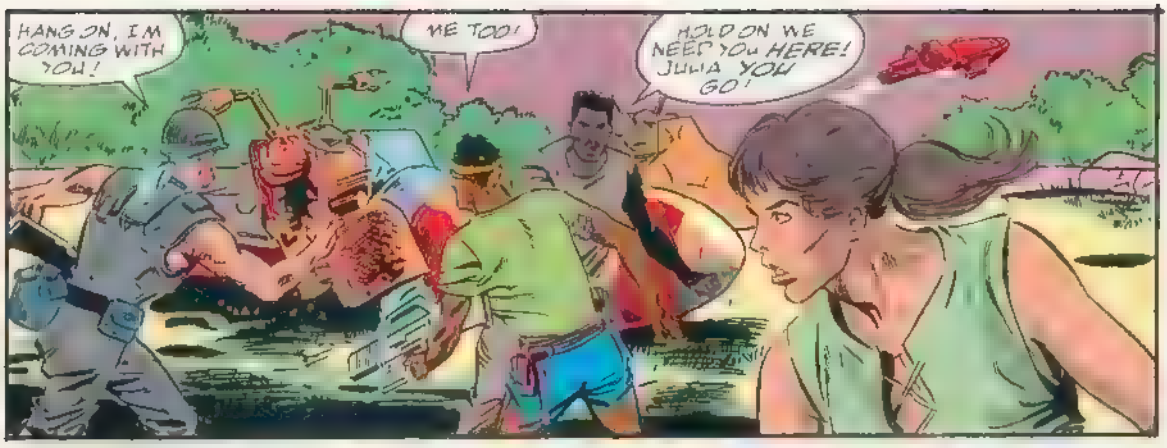
THIS IS A ZERO TIME DETONATOR. ALL I HAVE TO DO IS PUSH THIS LITTLE RED BUTTON AND WE'RE ALL VAPOR!
TELL YOUR LITTLE 'FRIENDS' NOT TO GET ANY FANCY IDEAS --
--IT'S GOT A REAL HAIR TRIGGER!

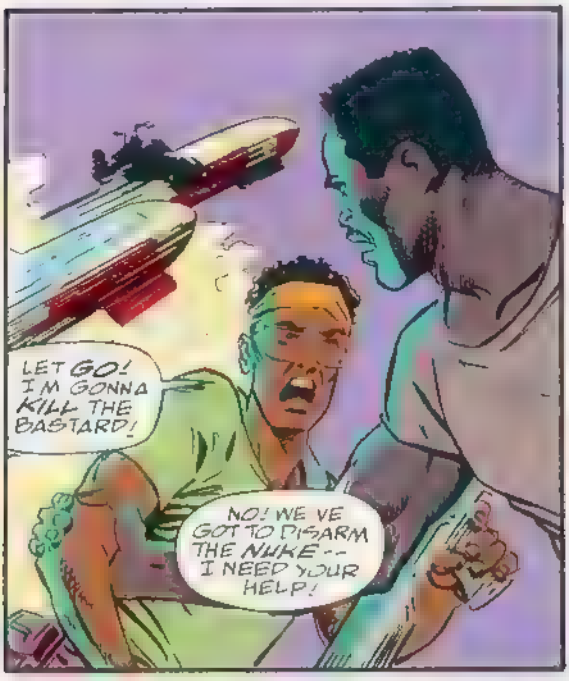

NOW I WANT EVERY BODY TO PUT DOWN THEIR GUNS AND BACK AWAY FROM THE FLYERS..
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU RE DOING...

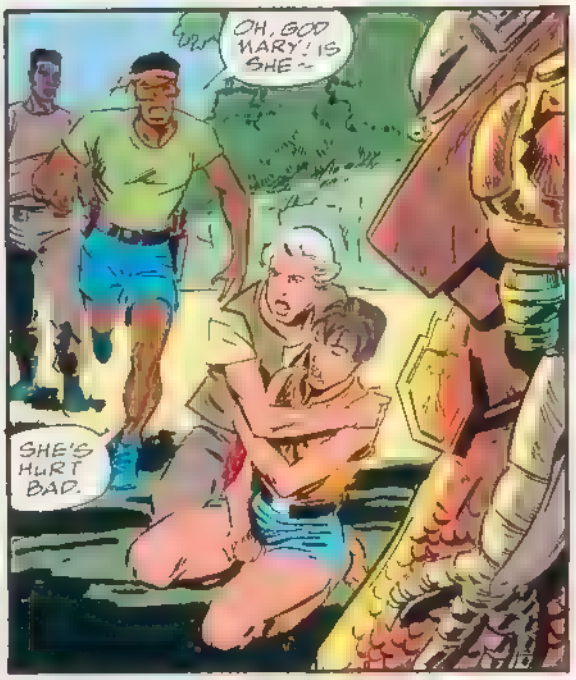
YES I DO--WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE
GET YOUR L TTLE BUDDIES TO DROP THEIR WEAPONS AND CALL OFF THE DROIDS -- NOW!
NO DON'T.
PLEASE DO AS HE SAYS HE'S SERIOUS.
SCHNEIDER, DON'T DO THIS. CAN'T YOU SEE HE'S CRACKED?!
SHUT UP! IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU AND YOUR CRAZY TOY WE WOULDN'T BE IN THIS SHIT NOW!
THAT'S IT--KEEP MOVING-- BACK UP...
I'M NOT TOO SURE ABOUT THIS. WHAT'LL WE DO? AND WHERE WE GONNA GO?
JUST DO AS YOU'RE GODDAMN TOLD, SOLDIER!!

NO- I'VE HAD ENOUGH. I'M NOT GOING TO DIE FOR YOU!
SCHNEIDER! YOU GET YOUR INSUBORDINATE BUTT BACK HERE NOW, SERGEANT!
I'M WARNING YOU. ONE MORE STEP AND YOU'RE DEAD!
WHAT'S THIS?
OKAY- IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU WANT IT!
NOOOO!

KA-THOOM
ELLEN!
YOU BASTARD!
NO, LYNDON, THE DETONATOR!
ARGH!

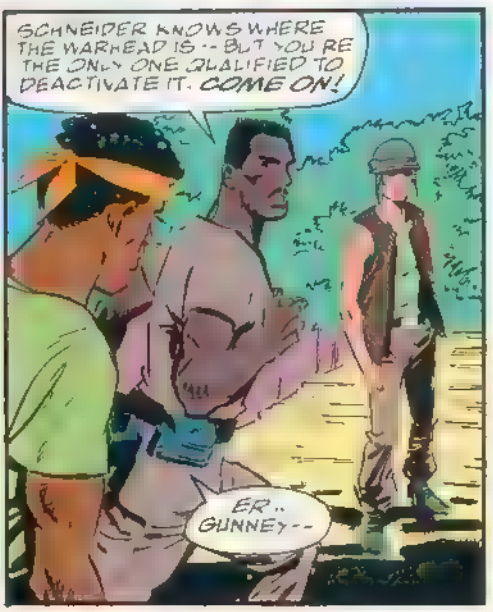

HANG ON, I'M COMING WITH YOU!
ME TOO!
HOLD ON WE NEED YOU HERE! JULIA YOU GO!

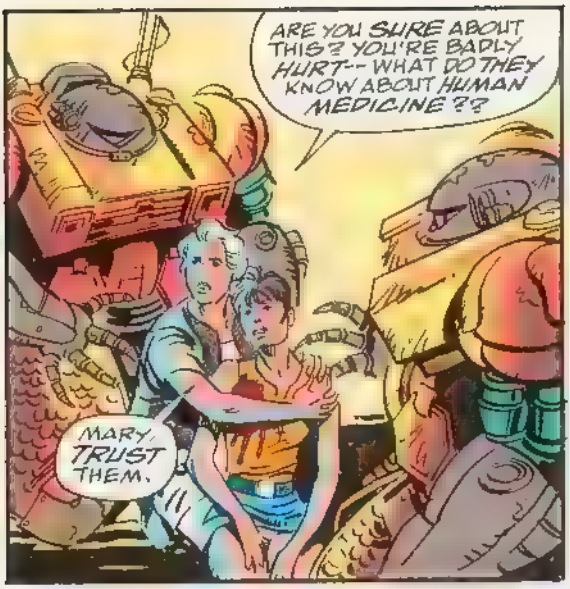

LET GO! I'M GONNA KILL THE BASTARD!
NO! WE'VE GOT TO DISARM THE NUKE -- I NEED YOUR HELP!

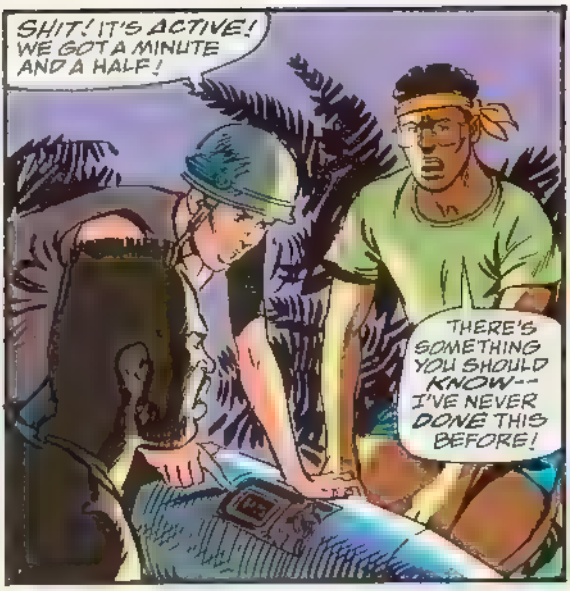

OH, GOD MARY! IS SHE --
SHE'S HURT BAD.

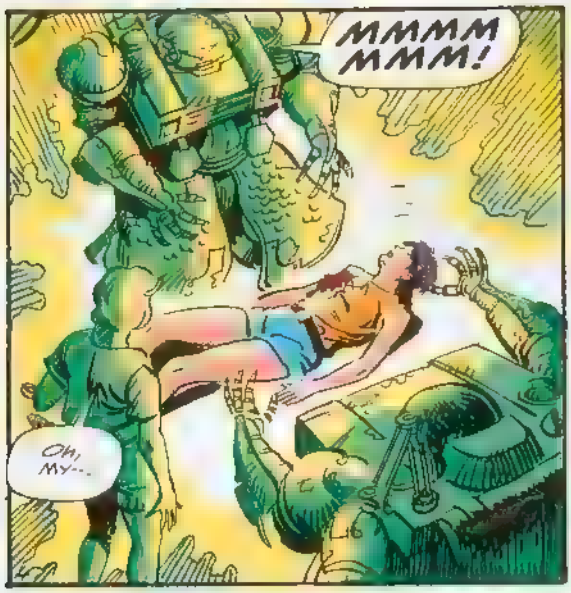
LYNDON . KAFF THE MENHYRR WILL TAKE CARE OF ME.. KAFF . YOU GO WITH GUNNEY .
BUT...

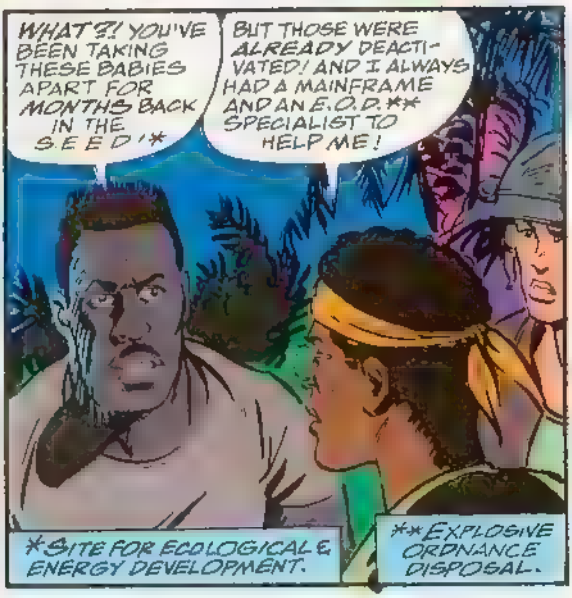
GO... OR IT WON'T MATTER!

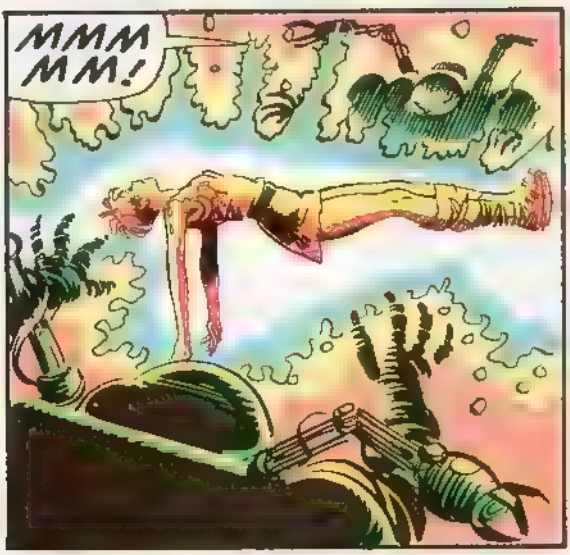

SCHNEIDER KNOWS WHERE THE WARHEAD IS -- BUT YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE QUALIFIED TO DEACTIVATE IT. COME ON!
ER.. GUNNEY --


ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS? YOU'RE BADLY HURT-- WHAT DO THEY KNOW ABOUT HUMAN MEDICINE??
MARY, TRUST THEM.


SHIT! IT'S ACTIVE! WE GOT A MINUTE AND A HALF!
THERE'S SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KNOW-- I'VE NEVER DONE THIS BEFORE!


MMMM MMM!
OH, MY...


WHAT?! YOU'VE BEEN TAKING THESE BABIES APART FOR MONTHS BACK IN THE S.E.E.D.*
BUT THOSE WERE ALREADY DEACTIVATED! AND I ALWAYS HAD A MAINFRAME AND AN E.O.D.** SPECIALIST TO HELP ME!
*SITE FOR ECOLOGICAL & ENERGY DEVELOPMENT.
**EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL.


MMM MM!

I CAN GET US PAST THE TIMER AND TREMBLER SWITCHES, BUT I'VE NEVER DEACTIVATED A LIVE NUCLEAR TRIGGER.
YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO WING IT, KID!

I'VE ISOLATED THE TRIP WIRES . GUNNEY HOLD THOSE CLIPS STEADY. THEY KEEP THE CIRCUIT CLOSED.
WE'VE GOT TEN SECONDS.
IT'S THE RED OR YELLOW.. I DON'T KNOW WHICH ONE...
THE RED ONE
THE YELLOW FIVE SECONDS COME ON MAN DO IT!
TWO...
SCREW THIS!
SKRAK
KLIK
KLIK
I NEED A CHANGE OF UNDER-WEAR!
NICELY DONE, LYNDON...
NOT THE MOST ELEGANT PIECE OF ENGINEERING BUT EFFECTIVE!

ELLEN! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT! HOW?
I'VE GOT THE MENHYRR TO THANK FOR THAT!
AND WE ALL HAVE YOU TO THANK. YOU'RE NOT THE HAM-FISTED COMPUTER HACK YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE!
HEY... UH, I DINK MUH DOSE ID BWOKE...
WASS GOIN' ON? DID I MISS ANYTINK?
MAN, YOU DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT!
WAD ABOUD TWASK?
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
K-THOOM

THE DRONES ARE FALLING BEHIND. THEY CAN'T KEEP UP THE PACE!
I WISH THESE GUYS WOULD HOLD STILL! I CAN'T GET A CLEAR SHOT!
WE'RE GAINING ON HIM! POUR IT ON, BIG FELLA!
SKRA-KOOSH
GOT YA!!

HE'S GOING DOWN!
KRUMMPF
CRACK
AUURGHH!

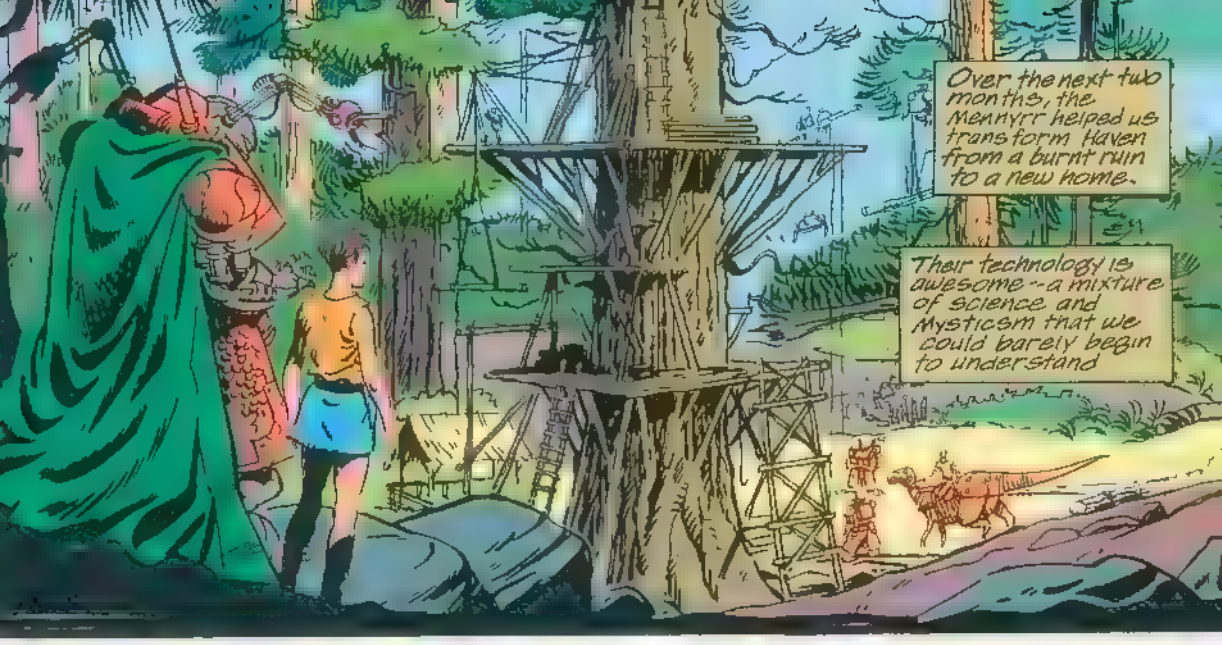
GOTTA. GET CLEAR
TO HELL WITH THE TIMER-- I'LL TAKE THEM WITH ME!
CHIK
CHIK
WHAT?! NOTHING! DAMN THEM!!
CAN YOU SEE HIM?
HE'S NOT HERE!
WE'VE GOT TO FIND HIM! HE'S GOT THE DETONATOR! LOOK-- THE DRONES ARE SCANNING THE AREA!
WE'LL FLUSH HIM, JULIA. YA HEAR TRASK? WE'RE GONNA FIND YA, YOU MAD BASTARD!

SKRSSH
YAARRGH!
OH MY GOD...
OUTTA HERE..
KRAK
Uh?

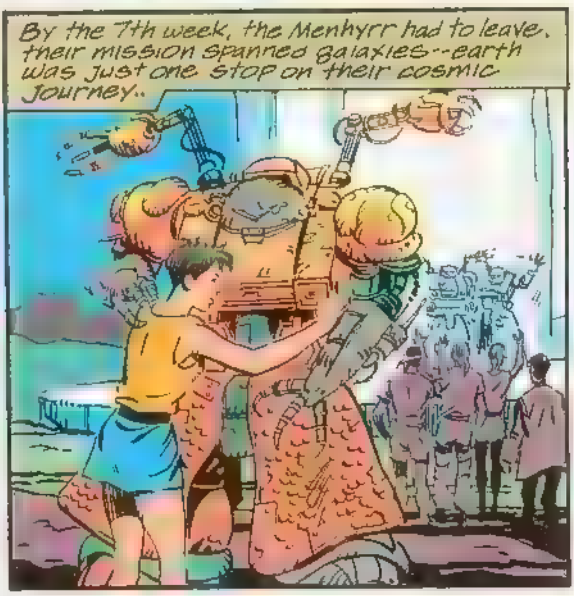
HSSSSS

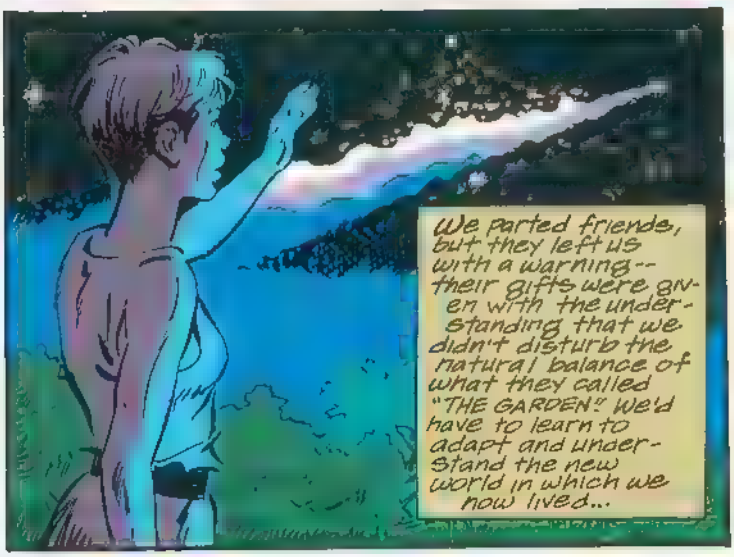
ARRGHH HHELP!!
CRRUK
GRUMMK
NOOOO AGH!

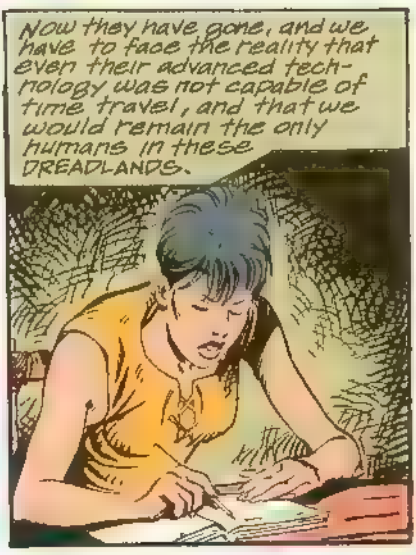
THEY'RE BACK!
PYKE, WHAT HAPPENED TO TRASK?
DINO-BURGER. HE DIDN'T MAKE IT.
BUT ELLEN, WEREN'T YOU ER, WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
LONG STORY.
YOU SHOULD'VE BEEN HERE MAN.. I WAS GREAT !
WHAT? O.K...
LISTEN UP PEOPLE! WE'VE GOT TO TALK!


Over the next two months, the Menhyrr helped us transform Haven from a burnt ruin to a new home.
Their technology is awesome--a mixture of science and Mysticism that we could barely begin to understand

But that didn't matter--with Lyndon's help, they were able to utilize what little they could leave us so we would never be without power, light, medicine and protection.


By the 7th week, the Menhyrr had to leave. their mission spanned galaxies--earth was just one stop on their cosmic journey..


We parted friends, but they left us with a warning--their gifts were given with the understanding that we didn't disturb the natural balance of what they called "THE GARDEN." We'd have to learn to adapt and understand the new world in which we now lived...


Now they have gone, and we have to face the reality that even their advanced technology was not capable of time travel, and that we would remain the only humans in these DREADLANDS.

Little Jeff was born eight months ago--a healthy baby boy with his father's smile -- that makes me think of him all the time.
We're living day-to-day and are quite a team-- after all we've only got each other. It took some time, but we all realize that now.

Our future would seem to be written, our fate sealed. So I've decided this will be my last. I'm going to stop marking time and start living it. It's not how long we've got, but how well we use it.

I never thought I'd be writing in this again, but I had to put this down for the record.
Julia is five months pregnant. Quite a surprise, as she and Gunney were supposedly sterile...
Guess it's something in the water.
Who knows, maybe there's hope for us yet.
THE END... FOR NOW!

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